

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/063,429

Examiner

Allen C. Ho

Applicant(s)

BOOMGAARDEN ET AL.

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 27 June 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5-15,17-24,26,28-39,41,42 and 44.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 April 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-3, 5-15, 17-24, 26, 28-39, 41, 42, and 44 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claims 1-3 and 5-11, although the prior art discloses patient support systems comprising a lateral rail structure attachable to a receptor and a patient support movably coupled to the lateral rail structure via a rail guide, it fails to teach or fairly suggest that the rail guide structure is releasably coupled to the lateral rail structure via a releasable latch as claimed in claim 1.

With regard to claim 12-15 and 17-20, although the prior art discloses patient supports comprising a curvilinear rail structure attached to, and movable with, a radiographic receptor of the imaging system, and a limb support slidably coupled to the curvilinear rail structure, it fails to teach or fairly suggest that the limb support is continuously movable and securable along the curvilinear structure as claimed in claim 12.

With regard to claims 21-24, 26, and 28-31, although the prior art discloses medical imaging systems comprising a rail structure having a curvilinear path coupled to a radiographic receptor and a patient extremity support, it fails to teach or fairly suggest that the patient extremity support tiltingly slides along the rail structure with the curvilinear path as claimed in claim 21.

With regard to claims 32-38, although the prior art discloses a method of supporting a patient limb during image acquisition by a medical imaging system comprising the steps of

Art Unit: 2882

sliding a limb support along a rail structure coupled to, and movable with, a radiographic receptor of the medical imaging system, and securing the limb support in a desired position along the rail structure, it fails to teach or fairly suggest that the rail structure is directly coupled to, and movable with, the radiographic receptor of the medical imaging system as claimed in claim 32.

With regard to claims 39, 41, 42, and 44, although the prior art discloses methods of forming a laterally adjustable limb support for a medical imaging system comprising providing a curvilinear lateral rail structure attached to a receptor of the medical imaging system, and slidingly coupling a limb support to the lateral rail structure, it fails to teach or fairly suggest the step of providing a friction-based securement mechanism to secure the limb support at a desired position along the lateral rail structure as claimed in claim 39.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen C. Ho whose telephone number is (571) 272-2491. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward J. Glick can be reached at (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2882

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Allen C. Ho
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2882

01 July 2005